

Message from the Chief

Chief's Memo – June 5, 2006

Budget / MOU / CDF Branding

I am pleased to report that the department has been making significant progress in the budget process. As we approach the end of the current fiscal year and the Legislature works its way through the Governor's May revised budget, CDF is faring well in the process. We have been receiving great support from the Governor's Office, Agency (Secretary Chrisman and Pat Kemp), the Department of Finance, the Legislature, and CDF Firefighters on issues of importance. Management Services has continued to do an outstanding job. Only the Legislative Analyst Office (LAO) analysis continues to take a view that does not support some of our budgetary requests. We are continuing to have dialogues with them to help them understand our perspective and to address public safety concerns.



Recently, the Legislature approved and the Governor enacted a deficiency bill under SB 1154 (Chapter 40, Statutes of 2006). This legislation includes CDF's approved deficiency request of \$8 million General Fund to address department budget shortfalls for 2005-06.

The FY 06/07 budget is currently in the joint Assembly and Senate Conference Committee. As of May 31, 2006 the Committee is moving in a positive way to support the following goals for CDF:

Approved Items:

- Funding for continuity / succession planning
- Funding and positions to speed-up the building/remodeling of fire stations
- Funding to speed-up the replacement of fire apparatus (re-appropriation)

Open Items:

- Funding for addressing the supervisory and management inversion issue
- Funding for planned overtime

Under Discussion

- Funding for Hemet Ryan Air Base

While it is premature to announce successful completion of these issues, I am optimistic about the progress to date.

Also, as you know by now, we reached a tentative agreement with CDF Firefighters to extend the current MOU for a two-year period. Here are a few key modifications to the current MOU, if ratified:

- All new and future appointments to the battalion chief (BC) classification will be made based on a 72-hour duty week. The current MOU provides for an 84-hour duty week. The key issues regarding this change are as follows:
 - CDF has 275 Battalion Chief (BC) positions. This agreement contains a grandparent provision that keeps existing BC's at an 84-hour duty week.
 - Approximately 75-80 percent of current BC incumbents will achieve retirement age within the next 5 years which should expedite the eventual conversion over to a 72-hour duty week.
 - No new BC positions are planned at this time; however, there is recognition that based on attrition and scheduling, there will be a need for an increase in positions.
- The Firefighter I classification will be moved to a 72-hour duty week. The current MOU provides for a 96-hour duty week with a 20 hour sleep time exclusion (5 hours of pay is backed out each night of the 96-hour/4-day shift, unless sleep is interrupted). The key issues relative to this change are as follows:
 - CDF has approximately 850 seasonal Firefighter I (FFI) positions.
 - The 10-year side letter agreement allowing for the sleep time exclusion expires June 30, 2006. No attempt to renegotiate the side letter will be made as a result of this agreement.
 - CDF will need to add seasonal FFI positions to meet staffing needs because of this change.
- CDF has approximately 135 positions covered under BU - 8 that are 40-hour duty week employees. This agreement would provide a 3 percent salary increase for employees in these positions.

The next steps to ratify this agreement will be:

- DPA will incorporate this tentative agreement into a bill for LAO and legislative review ([The LAO Analysis is available online](#)).
- After the bill is approved by the legislature, it will go to the Governor for signature
- After the Governor signs the bill, the union has 60 days to present it before its membership for a ratification vote.

Finally, I would like to welcome our newest employees from San Diego Rural Fire Protection District. Last week I attended the badge pinning ceremonies at the San Diego Unit headquarters as we entered into Schedule A and Amador

agreements with San Diego County and San Diego Rural Fire Protection District. Congratulations are in order to Unit Chief Chuck Maner and his staff for an outstanding job. It was good to see this partnership come to fruition for the people of San Diego County, San Diego Rural Fire Protection District, and CDF.

Speaking of partnerships, after a meeting last week with Senator Bogh, I have asked Deputy Director of Legislation, Dave Titus, to coordinate a meeting to discuss what I call "CDF Branding." I will be seeking participation and input to discuss Unit and statewide engine markings, shoulder patches, and the CDF name that reflects our partnerships and our mission. It is my intent to address these issues with representation from forestry, fire protection, state fire marshal staff, labor, and other stakeholders. I will keep you informed as we progress on this topic.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Grijalva', with a stylized, cursive script.

Ruben Grijalva, Chief
Director / State Fire Marshal

Camp Funding / Reimbursements

This information is provided as a clarification. CDF had a \$200,000 BCP approved for pre-fire projects in fiscal year 2002-03 which provides for receipts to go directly to the camp. In fiscal year 2004-05 this program was augmented by \$200,000 allowing for a total expenditure authority of \$400,000. The \$400,000 of reimbursement authority has been allocated to the camps in fiscal year 2005-06 and many camps are utilizing this program. However, an issue may be that PCA 01080 is titled "Pre-Fire Projects Fire Crew Reimbursement OE Only." In reality the PCA is for all camp projects not just pre-fire. In any case the funds go directly back to the camp level.

Fire Prevention

Sacramento fire prevention staff has finished "Train the Trainer" classes for the 100 foot defensible space inspection program. Four classes were held training 104 "trainers" whose responsibility now is to present the class to employees in their home Unit. In addition to CDF staff, attendees included representatives from contract counties, U.S. Forest Service, and a few local fire departments. A new defensible space inspection form, the LE-100 was rolled out that closely follows the new statute and regulations. Defensible space is very important in achieving the Fire Plan goal of reducing costs and losses from wildland fire. As homeowners come into compliance with the new clearance requirements and the new ignition resistant construction standards begin to take effect, we will see a long-term trend of lower costs and fewer losses.

Mobile Equipment Management

Mobile Equipment Management specifies that all newly designed apparatus constructed for CDF meet or exceeds the requirements of NFPA 1906 Standard for Wildland Fire Apparatus. In addition to meeting the numerous requirements in NFPA, one of the performance requirements specified, is that the fully loaded apparatus must meet or exceed the minimum NFPA 1906 requirement of a 30 degree angle tilt to measure static vehicle rollover. The procedure to measure the static rollover threshold for heavy trucks is to chain the vehicle to a tilt table and gradually raise the table until the outside rear tires no longer contact the table.

These photos are of the tilt table performance test of a Placer Fire manufactured Model # 34. This test was conducted at the USFS Test Center in San Dimas and this manufacturer's apparatus exceeded the minimum requirements at 31.2 degrees of tilt.



Office of State Fire Marshal

The annual Fireworks Press conference is scheduled for June 26 in Sacramento. The OSFM along with local fire departments will exhibit safe and sane as well as illegal fireworks. This event is part of a statewide campaign, including broadcast and print public service announcements and web-based information that will continue through July 4.

The OSFM will present a "Filming in California" Special Effects and Scene Safety training class in Burbank July 12-14. The Burbank Fire Department will host at their training center. Registration is currently underway. Anyone wishing to sign up for this course should contact Al Adams: al.adams@fire.ca.gov

Resource Management

The Forest Practice office in Santa Rosa has been notified that the NTMP for the San Jose Water Company will be submitted during the week of May 29. It will undergo first review beginning the week of June 5. It is anticipated that the new plan will include more in-depth disclosure and discussion of the Company's Fire Plan and analysis of late seral forest habitat. Also expect quite a bit of public interest and desire by responsible agencies to attend the pre-harvest inspection (to be determined as part of first review).

Several meetings with Unit resource management staff are planned for the upcoming weeks. Chief Deputy Director Crawford Tuttle will be visiting the Mendocino Unit (including Jackson Demonstration State Forest), Humboldt-Del Norte Unit, and a meeting will be planned with interior Northern Region Units later at the end of June or in July.